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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

ATTENTION: Plans and Program Staff, DD/S&T

SUBJECT: Analysis of Program Priorities -  
Fiscal Year 1966 and 1967

REFERENCE: Undated Enclosure B; Subject:  
Analysis of Program Priorities

PART I - Office of Special Activities has two high priority projects (IDEALIST and OXCART) which are required by direction of USIB to maintain a level of reconnaissance capability. OSA's funding requirements are therefore in direct support of those National Reconnaissance Programs assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency. Unless a reduction of activities is placed upon the National Reconnaissance Program, OSA is unable to unilaterally designate IDEALIST or OXCART activities which may be significantly reduced or cancelled to comply with reference Enclosure B. In addition, OSA is actively preparing to achieve a BLACK SHIELD staging capability in September 1965 for which there are no programmed funds in the Fiscal Year 1966 Operating Budget. We, therefore, believe it is highly impractical to attempt to list alleged reductions in activities, which we cannot unilaterally designate, while we are actively engaged in meeting a staging capability requiring additional personnel and Agency funds. In the event the BLACK SHIELD staging requirement is cancelled and a 10% reduction of funds is levied upon OSA, we would attempt to comply by across-the-board reductions, but OSA's reconnaissance capability could be adversely affected.

PART II - Budget increases for Fiscal Year 1967 are primarily for the establishment of a Far East OXCART detachment in July 1966 and the development of a SKYLARK capability

[redacted] continuation of a [redacted]  
[redacted] and the support of Project ISINGLASS  
[redacted] which is forecast to be operationally ready in Fiscal Year 1970. These projects are of highest priority and are in

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GROUP 1

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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NRO review(s) completed.

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direct support of the National Reconnaissance Program. Unless a decision is made to curtail or cancel one or more of these projects, OSA cannot unilaterally designate a project for reduction or cancellation. In fact, such reductions would appear to be contrary to the long-term photo intelligence objective of the National Reconnaissance Program. In the event a forced reduction is levied on OSA, we would attempt to comply by across-the-board reductions.

(Signed) Jack C. Ledford

**JACK C. LEDFORD**  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)

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